

STANDARD OIL, DICTATING GAS RATES IN N. Y., CHARGES "ALL TRAFFIC WILL BEAR"

Gas Companies Let Coal Gas
Plants Go to Ruin, Thus
Aiding Monopoly.

IS THERE A CONSPIRACY?

Standard Oil of N. Y. and S. O.
of N. J. Seem to Play Into
Each Other's Hands.

Increased use of automobiles and gasoline engines and extension of oil burning systems for heating and driving ships and locomotives have made possible the boosting of gas rates to \$1.18 in New York City, according to Col. William Hayward, counsel for the Public Service Commission in the gas rate cases.

Col. Hayward has compiled evidence to show that in the final analysis it is the Standard Oil Company that fixes gas rates and not the Consolidated Gas Company. This evidence will be used in future proceedings for the fixing of an official rate.

This situation has come about through the Standard's control of the oil market and development of gas plants for making oil gas at the expense of the coal gas plants. "Now, according to Col. Hayward and his associate, Major John Holley Clark Jr., peculiar market changes have made it more profitable for the Standard Oil interests to pay less attention to their gas company holdings and leave them to their own devices."

GAS COMPANIES PAY TWICE MARKET PRICE FOR COAL GAS.
The gas oil for which the Consolidated is now paying the Standard Oil 12 1/2 cents per gallon, although the open market price is less than 6 cents, formerly was thrown away as waste after the kerosene had been taken out. Kerosene at that time was the product of principal value.

In the 30's it was found that the residue, or "intermediate" oil was useful for making gas. The Standard Oil began to take an interest in gas making and acquired considerable holdings in gas companies.

From that time on coal gas making was neglected and gas oil making was developed rapidly. The price of the "intermediate" oil, for which there was little other use, was cheap enough to make this method of manufacture economical.

With the advent of the automobile and later the popularity of the gas engine, the demand for gasoline forced this product into the leading position of all products. Gasoline was extracted from the "gas oil," leaving a residue still useful for gas making, but much inferior to the "intermediate" oil.

The war period, with its pressing demand for fuel, brought perfection of a method of still further refining the oil residue and extracting gasoline by subjecting the oil to terrific heat at high pressure. By thus "cracking" the oil and getting further gasoline, the producers obtained a higher price than they were getting for the "gas oil."

PEOPLE PAY FOR THE "SCRAP-PIG" OF COAL GAS PLANTS.

Meantime the use of oil for making gas had been made compulsory on the gas companies by the changing over of plants. In 1914, when the price of oil was \$20.00 per gallon, the Consolidated was making at the Astoria plant 5,769,143 cubic feet of coal gas to 4,949,084 cubic feet of oil gas. In 1915, when the price of oil had advanced to \$20.00 per gallon, the same plant's production of coal gas had dropped to 3,072,004 cubic feet of coal gas, against 4,949,084 cubic feet of oil gas. Thus, Major Clark shows, manufacture of oil gas was greatly increased.

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Gas Company, operating plants in New Jersey, was paying the Gulf Refining Company 3.05 cents, plus lightering which brought the total cost up to a maximum of 3.55 cents per gallon.

The Brooklyn Union Gas Company, while the Consolidated was buying from the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, wrote asking that company to quote prices on gas oil. The Brooklyn Union had been buying from the Standard Oil Company of New York. Mr. Addicks wrote to the Standard Oil Company of New York, among the companies he asked to quote for the Consolidated.

The Standard Oil of New Jersey replied to the Brooklyn Union that it had no gas oil available for that company. The Standard Oil Company of New York informed the Consolidated that it had no gas oil available for the Consolidated.

Thereafter, according to Major Clark's records, the Standard Oil of New York bought from the Standard Oil of New Jersey \$1,000,000 gallons of gas oil, enough to run the Brooklyn Union for about a year. This oil or its equivalent, which the Standard of New Jersey refused to sell to the Brooklyn Union and then sold to the Standard Oil of New York, the Standard of New York thereupon sold to the Brooklyn Union.

As each cent in the gallon price of oil represents 4 cents in the price of 1,000 feet of gas, Col. Hayward declares it really is the Standard Oil that dictates the price of gas. The Standard can afford to be independent because one gallon of gas oil produces half a gallon of gasoline. This actually is worth more on the market than the gallon of gas oil. For this reason, Col. Hayward and Major Clark believe, the Standard Oil is losing interest in gas companies and is collecting "all the traffic will bear" until the companies are forced back into the coal gas field.

WHY CONSOLIDATED IS AT THE MERCY OF STANDARD OIL.

In 1917-1918, when the Consolidated was paying 5 cents to 6 1/2 cents per gallon to the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, the Public Service

Commission war or a Democratic war Charles G. Dawes makes it evident that he does not read all the important utterances of our great men. Did not young Theodore Roosevelt tell us last summer that the Republicans won the war?



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